



Illustration by John H. Rumely,  
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## ***TOWNSENDIA FLORIFER*** **SHOWY TOWNSENDIA**

Showy Townsendia is an annual to short-lived perennial with 1 to several ascending stems that are 5-15 cm high and arising from a simple taproot. Leaves are spoon-shaped, 2-6 cm long at the base, and reduced upward. Foliage is sparsely to densely covered with short, appressed hairs. 1-few stalked flower heads are borne at the tips of the stems. Each head has 3-4 series of narrow, overlapping, green or purple involucre bracts that are 7-10 mm long, 13-34 pink ray flowers that are 7-12 mm long, and yellow disk corollas that are 3-6 mm long. The hairy achenes are topped by straight, stiff bristles that are 1-6 mm long in ray flowers and 3-8 mm long in disk flowers. Flowering in June.

Most of our species of *TOWNSENDIA* are low, nearly stemless plants. The only other species with stems greater than 5 cm long is *T. PARRYI*, which has blue to lavender rays and involucre bracts that are 9-16 mm long.